



29/01/04

EV 480070794 US

ITW

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION OF)
Muyskens)
)
SERIAL NO.: 10/709927) Group Art Unit: 1746
)
FILED: June 7, 2004) Examiner:
)
FOR: WASHING MACHINE BASE FOR)
SECURING A CENTRAL MECHANISM)

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08A is a listing of references known to applicant and/or his attorney in compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.56. A legible copy of each foreign reference is enclosed pursuant to 37 C.F.R.1.98(a)(2).

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(3)(i), the following is a concise explanation of the relevance of each foreign patent:

Japanese Patent No. JP 04128159 A2 discloses a packing device for a washing machine comprising a reinforcing member 23 centrally disposed in a base 18 and engageable with a strut 16 attached to the underside of the washer tub (Fig. 1).

Japanese Patent No. JP 06156573 A2 discloses another packing member for a washing machine comprising a cushioning member 15 centrally disposed within a base 13 and configured to support the underside of the washer tub.

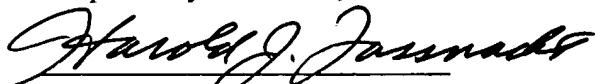
Japanese Patent No. JP 07041075 A2 discloses a multiple component base for a washing machine consisting mainly of corrugated cardboard. The base comprises a tray 9 and folded corrugated cardboard supports 10 and 11 which intersect each other and prevent the washing machine from "swinging." The tray 9 is similar to that of the present invention, but the '075 patent does not disclose a pyramid shaped corrugated member.

Japanese Patent No. JP 09315483 A2 discloses a packaging base for a washing machine comprising a tray 2 on which the washer housing is loaded and a centrally disposed grid-shaped supporting base 3 (Fig. 1). A bracket-like "fixing utensil" 50 sits within the supporting base 3 to secure the tub.

Japanese Patent No. JP 10236573 A2 discloses a base stand for a washing machine comprising a flat bottom board 1 and a cylinder 3. The bottom board 1 has a plurality of tongue shaped pieces 6 arranged in a circle. The base 1 is inserted into a tray, and the cylinder is affixed to the bottom board 1 by gluing the tongue shaped pieces 6 to its periphery as shown in Figures 3 and 7. An optional receiving stand 10 may be disposed within the cylinder (Fig. 3). By inserting the movable part of the washer into the cylinder 3 and supporting it on the receiving stand, the part can be protected from shaking and vibration. The patent indicates that the base is made without using polystyrene foam. However, the patent does not disclose a pyramid shaped member for securing the movable part of a washer.

Applicant seeks to have these references available in the record for both the Examiner and the public to see.

Respectfully submitted,



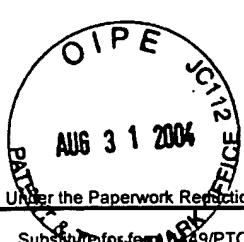
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Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 149/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/709927
Filing Date	06/07/2004
First Named Inventor	Muyskens
Art Unit	1746
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	4253

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 04128159 A2	04-28-1992	Satoru		
		JP 06156573 A2	06-03-1994	Takehisa		
		JP 07041075 A2	02-10-1995	Hiroshi et al.		
		JP 09315483 A2	12-09-1997	Shinpei et al.		
		JP 10236573 A2	09-08-1998	Mototaka et al.		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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